

God's Plan for People, Pt. 7

ETERNAL SECURITY

I. Man's Condition

1. Dead in trespasses and sin

Eph. 2:1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins...5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ

2. Lost in the darkness of the kingdom of Satan

Rom. 1:21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Eph. 4:18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

3. For men to be delivered from death and darkness, they must first believe.

3.1 Belief and faith allow us to draw near to God

Heb. 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

3.2 Belief and faith precede justification

Acts 13:39 ...by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Gal. 2:16 ...a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

(Rom. 3.26; Rom. 4.5)

3.3 Belief and repentance bring remission of sin

Acts 10:43 To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.

Luke 24:46 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

3.4 Belief gives us power to become sons of God

John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

4. There is no natural desire in man to seek after the righteousness of God.

Rom. 3:10 ...it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

Psalms 14:2 The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. 3 They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

5. Even if they had the desire, they have no ability to find or comprehend it.

Rom. 8:7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

II. God's Plan

1. Whatever God wills to do, He does.

Isaiah 14:24 The LORD of hosts has sworn: "As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand..." 27 For the LORD of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?

Psalm 115:3 Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

(Isaiah 46:10; Job 23:13; Ecc. 3:14; Psalm 135:6; Dan. 4:35)

2. The gifts of God are without repentance.

Num. 23:19 God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

Rom. 11:29 For God's gifts and His call are irrevocable. (He never withdraws them when once they are given, and He does not change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call.) (AMP)

3. God does not invite us to salvation; He intentionally calls us.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Cor. 1:9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Rom. 8:30; 1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 4:4; Heb. 9:15; 2 Pet. 1:10; Rev. 17:14; 19:9)

4. He knows that we are dead to righteousness and unable to respond to His call; therefore, His plan includes first enabling us to respond.

4.1 He quickens us – gives us life – by His will.

John 5:21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.

Rom. 8:11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

(Eph. 2:1, 5)

- 4.2 He gifts us with faith to believe.

Eph. 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; [it is] the gift of God,

Rom. 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

- 4.3 He gifts us with the ability to repent.

Acts 5:31 God exalted him (Christ) at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give (grant) repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 11:18 When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

2 Tim. 2:24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

- 4.4 All of this He does through the Word (or word).

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

Acts 26:16 But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, 17 delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles – to whom I am sending you 18 to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.

5. It is God who justifies those called to salvation.

Rom. 8:33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Rom. 8:30 ...those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

6. He is capable of keeping us within the faith.

John 10:28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one.

III. Christ our Savior

1. Jesus is part of the quickening – life-giving – process.

(John 5.21)

1 Cor. 15:45 Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

2. He is the one who brings us the light by which we come out of the darkness of death and regain the ability to once again see the choice of righteousness.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Eph. 5:14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."

3. At salvation, it is Christ who baptizes us in the Holy Spirit, making us part of the His own body. If we can be lost again, it means we must be torn from His body.

Matt. 3:11 I (John the Baptist) baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me...will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Acts 1:5 (Jesus said), "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

1 Cor. 12:13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

4. Along with the Father, He is capable of keeping us in the faith and capable of keeping us from falling.

4.1 He saves completely and perfectly and to the limit of His ability to save.

Heb. 7:24 (Christ) holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. 25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

4.2 He is able to keep us from falling.

Jude 1:24 To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy...

4.3 He is in the Father.

John 10:38 ...the Father is in me and I am in the Father.

John 14:10 I am in the Father and the Father is in me...11 I am in the Father and the Father is in me...

John 14:20 I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

John 17:23 I in them and you in me...

5. He will lose nothing that the Father has given Him.

John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

6. His is our advocate against Satan and our intercessor before the Father.

1 John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Rom. 8:33 Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one – for God himself has given us right standing with himself. 34 Who then will condemn us? No one – for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us. (NLT)

(Rev. 12:10-11)

If sin could destroy our salvation, then Satan has a case which would stand the test of God's Law and could accuse us before the Father with the assurance that justice would yield a verdict of guilty and of condemnation and a loss of salvation.

My Advocate

I sinned. And straightway, posthaste, Satan flew
before the presence of the Most High God,
And made a railing accusation there.
He said, "This soul, this thing of clay and sod,
Has sinned. 'Tis true that he has named Thy name,
But I demand his death, for Thou hast said,
'The soul that sinneth, it shall die.' Shall not
Thy sentence be fulfilled? Is justice dead?
Send now this wretched sinner to his doom.
What other thing can righteous Ruler do?"

And thus he did accuse me day and night,
And every word he spoke, O God, was true!
Then quickly One rose up from God's right hand,
Before whose glory angels veiled their eyes,
He spoke, "Each jot and tittle of the Law
Must be fulfilled; the guilty sinner dies!
But wait – suppose his guilt were all transferred
To Me, and that I paid his penalty!
Behold My hands, My side, My feet! One day
I was made sin for him, and died that he
Might be presented faultless, at Thy throne!"
And Satan fled away. Full well he knew
That he could not prevail against such love,
For every word my dear Lord spoke was true!

Martha Snell Nicholson

IV. The Holy Spirit

1. He also is involved in the quickening process since He, too, is God.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who quickens (gives life).

(Rom. 8:11)

2. He is the agent who carries out the process of regeneration (being born again) and sanctification.

(John 3:5-8)

1 Cor. 6:11 ...you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

3. He is the earnest of God – the guarantee that the life we have been given by God through Jesus is everlasting life.

Eph. 1:13 In him (Christ) you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

(Eph. 4:30; 2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5)

V. Assurance of our Salvation

1. The life that we are given at salvation is called “eternal life” (30x) or “everlasting life” (17x).

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

John 6:47 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.

2. We can know that we are saved.

1 John 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.

3. Evidence of our salvation

3.1 If we love the brethren

1 John 5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.

(1 John 3:14; John 13:35)

3.2 If we love God and obey His commandments

1 John 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

(1 John 3:24; John 14:21, 23)

3.3 The Holy Spirit

1 John 4:13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

Rom. 8:16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

(Rom. 8:9-17)

4. Our security is stated in plain terms in Scripture

Rom. 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death...35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?...38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

VI. The Process

John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.